



OFFICE OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

# Kevin C. Riley

## STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER KEVIN C. RILEY IN RESPONSE TO DANIEL PENNY'S NOT GUILTY VERDICT IN THE DEATH OF JORDAN NEELY

December 9, 2024

I am deeply outraged and profoundly disheartened by today's verdict in the case of Daniel Penny. The dismissal of the manslaughter charge, followed by the acquittal of criminally negligent homicide, is a stark and painful reminder of how our justice system continues to fail Black lives and the most vulnerable members of our society.

Jordan Neely was a New Yorker in crisis. His life was tragically cut short in a way that should never have happened. This verdict denies accountability for his death and sends a troubling message about how we value Black lives, especially those facing mental health and housing challenges.

For many in our community, this outcome is heartbreakingly familiar—a cycle of loss without justice, where the system turns its back on those it is supposed to protect. Jordan's death is a painful reminder of the stigma against the unhoused and those experiencing mental health crises, perpetuating cycles of neglect and dehumanization.

As a Black man raising three Black children, I feel the weight of this decision deeply. It strengthens my resolve to fight for a system that values every life, ensures resources and protections for those in crisis, and confronts the systemic inequities that disproportionately harm Black and marginalized communities.

We must do better. As a city and a society, we cannot allow lives like Jordan Neely's to continue being treated as disposable. We must take meaningful steps to provide support, compassion, and justice for those most in need.

My thoughts are with Jordan's family, loved ones, and everyone feeling the pain of this decision. We must remain committed to the work ahead to build a more just and equitable future, where every New Yorker is treated with dignity and their life is valued.



@CMKevinCRiley



(718) 684-5509



District12@council.nyc.gov